

OCI No. 0759/65

8 February 1965

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: UAR, Syrian and Iraqi Holdings of Soviet  
Bloc Military Equipment; Jordan's Armed  
Forces

1. Communist countries, primarily the USSR, have provided military assistance worth an estimated \$2 billion--prior to discounts--to the UAR, Syria and Iraq since 1955. Military deliveries to these countries are continuing. A new agreement was concluded with Iraq in mid-1964, talks probably leading to a new pact were held with Syria in October, and new contracts with the UAR are likely to be concluded shortly. The following inventories are believed to include all major items of equipment now held by the respective countries.

UAR (EGYPT)

2. The Bloc has provided \$1 billion worth of military equipment, the bulk of it from the Soviet Union.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Holdings</u>
<u>AIR</u>	
MIG-21 jet fighters (some AAM-equipped)	102
MIG-19 jet fighters	39
MIG 15/17 jet fighters	110
IL-28 jet light bombers	44
TU-16 jet medium bombers	20
IL-14 twin engine transports	54
AN-10 four engine turboprop transports	1
AN-12 four engine turboprop transports (including five, with Soviet crews, on loan from the USSR)	16
Helicopters (including 5 MI-6/HOOK)	41
Radar EW/GCI	60

<u>Item</u>	<u>Holdings</u>
<u>GROUND</u>	
Heavy tanks	60
Medium tanks	800
Amphibious tanks	20
Assault guns	200
Armored vehicles	800
Recoilless weapons (including 120 anti-tank missiles)	800
Anti-aircraft artillery	400
Anti-tank artillery	300
Field artillery	500
Surface-to-air missile sites (SA-2)	20*
<u>NAVAL</u>	
Destroyers	4
Submarines	10
Motor torpedo boats	25
Guided missile motor boats ("Komar")	8
Submarine chasers	6
Minesweepers	6
Patrol craft	2

### SYRIA

3. The USSR and Czechoslovakia have provided an estimated \$325 million worth of military equipment and training since 1955. The last known major Soviet-Syrian arms deal was concluded in 1962 and deliveries under this agreement are continuing. Military aid talks held in October 1964 probably involved adjustments to the 1962 agreement and possibly procurement of additional materiel.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Holdings</u>
<u>AIR</u>	
MIG-21 jet fighters	33
MIG-17 jet fighters	40
U-MIG-15 jet fighters	6

\* Some of these sites have not been equipped with missiles. We do not know how many of the sites are operational or how many missiles the UAR has. Twenty sites would call for about 500 missiles according to Soviet practice.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Holdings</u>
<u>AIR (Continued)</u>	
IL-28 jet light bombers	4
IL-14 twin jet transports	8
Helicopters	9
Radar EW/GCI	26
 <u>GROUND</u>	
Medium tanks	400
Assault guns	80
Armored vehicles	450
Recoilless weapons	500
Anti-aircraft artillery	200
Anti-tank artillery	100
Field artillery	220
 <u>NAVAL</u>	
Motor Torpedo Boats	15
Guided Missile Motor Boats ("Komar")	4
Minesweepers	2

IRAQ

4. The USSR agreed to provide Iraq with about \$370 million worth of military equipment and training under four major arms deals, the last of which was concluded in June 1964. Most of this aid was delivered prior to the overthrow of the Qasim regime in February 1963. The SAM program was suspended by the Ba'th Government which assumed power at that time, and the entire Soviet aid effort was subjected to close scrutiny. In mid-June 1963, when relations between Moscow and Baghdad were severely strained, the USSR cut off major military deliveries. In August, the USSR agreed to resume shipments and since then most of the materiel programmed under earlier agreements has been shipped to the present regime which came to power in November 1963.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Holdings</u>
<u>AIR</u>	
MIG-21 jet fighters (some equipped with AAMs)	16
MIG-17 jet fighters	17
IL-28 jet fighters	14
TU-16 jet medium bombers	10
AN-12 four engine turboprop transports	3
AN-2 light transports	3
Helicopters	18
Radar EW/GCI	32
Air-to-air missiles for MIG-21s	160
<u>GROUND</u>	
Medium tanks	80
Assault guns	120
Armored vehicles	460
Recoilless weapons (including 260 anti-tank missiles)	400
anti-aircraft artillery	360
Anti-tank artillery	20
Field artillery	650
<u>NAVAL</u>	
Motor Torpedo Boats	12
Submarine Chasers	3
Patrol Craft	2

JORDAN'S ARMED FORCES

5. The total strength of the regular Jordanian army is 37,400. In addition, about 8,500 lightly armed National Guardsmen help guard Jordan's frontier with Israel. We believe the army is capable of maintaining internal security, but it is incapable of engaging in sustained offensive combat without outside assistance. Defensively, it could contain attacks by any one neighboring Arab army and could probably hold parts of West Jordan against Israeli attack for as much as three or four days. It is weak in air defense.

6. At present, the army is in the midst of reorganizing and modernizing with the aid of US-supplied equipment. Current plans call for disbanding the

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National Guard and creating 4 to 6 additional infantry brigades which would probably include organic armor. So far, 3,950,000 pounds sterling have been disbursed to Jordan by the United Arab Command. These payments have come from a joint fund to which contributions have been made by the Arab states which participated in the Cairo Conferences of January and September 1964.

7. The army is still using mainly British equipment, but it is attempting to standardize on US equipment. The US equipment presently held includes medium tanks, field artillery, anti-tank weapons, small arms and Ford trucks. An inventory of all major items of equipment now held follows:

Medium tanks	220
Anti-tank and assault guns	30
Motorized field artillery	25
Armored vehicles	350
Recoilless weapons	300
Anti-aircraft artillery	65
Anti-tank artillery	80
Field artillery	180

8. Jordan has 24 Hawker Hunter and 8 jet fighters. The Vampires are in storage. The air force, without the assistance of other Arab air forces, has a very limited combat capability against Israel. Jordanian pilots are well trained for tactical missions and could effectively support ground forces against an internal rebellion. There is a fair transport capability. Personnel strength is approximately 1,800.

9. A small naval force of about 100 men operates as a component of the Jordanian army. It has nine small craft on the Dead Sea and two small patrol launches at Aqaba. The combat capability of this force is virtually nil.

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